THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Matter is under discussion.

Atomic power generation

†410. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that atomic energy accounts for very little in the total power generation of the country;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor and the status of India in comparison to the other countries in the field of power generation from the atomic energy;

(c) whether the atomic power plants in the country are not efficient enough; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to increase the generation of atomic energy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Nuclear energy is around 3% of the total electricity generation in the country.

(b) India is pursuing a three stage nuclear power programme aimed at long term energy independence based on use of our abundant Thorium resources. In order to realise this goal we are well into the first stage based on our modest domestic Uranium resources. This will be followed by second stage comprising of fast reactors which can support a large power generation capacity before getting into the third stage. This sequential technology development and implementation to be done in a technology restrictive regime is the main reason for the present low level of total power generation using atomic energy. Nuclear power is a significant contributor of electricity in advanced countries, accounting for 78% in France, 31% in Germany, 29% in Japan and 20% in USA. Its share in developing countries with a nuclear power programme is comparable to that of India: it is 3% in Brazil and 2.2% in China.

(c) The atomic power plants in the country are very efficient.

(d) Does not arise.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

With a view to increase the nuclear power generation, the installed capacity is being increased. There are currently fifteen nuclear power reactors with a capacity of 3360 MWe are in operation. Eight nuclear power reactors with a capacity of 3920 MWe are under construction. On completion of these reactors progressively, the installed capacity in the country will reach 6780 MWe by December 2008 and 7280 MWe by March 2011. The work on these projects is progressing as per schedule.

Agreement with CIL

†411. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the agreement entered into with Coal India Limited, several power generation projects have not purchased coal during the year 2005;

(b) if so, the names of those projects and the quantum of coal purchased less than the prescribed limit by each project;

(c) whether as a result of it the coal production in the country has reduced; and

(d) if so, the reduction in coal production due to the said reasons?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN): (a) and (b) CIL has reported that despatch of coal to majority of the power plants is more than the contracted quantity. Only two power plants namely Talcher STPS and Calcutta Electricity Supply Company (CESC) have procured less coal against the contracted quantity with subsidiary companies of CIL during the year of 2005. Despatch of coal to Talcher STPS was less than the contracted quantity due to infrastructure constraints faced by the Talcher STPS. Similarly there was marginal shortfall in despatch of coal of CESC due to regulations imposed by the company from time to time for various reasons like maintenance of plant, railway track overhauling and controlling of inventory.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply given above.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.